



# Zero Beat

Serving hams in the Tri-County Area

No Zero Beat  
next month

Volume 8 No. 6

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

July 1994

## NO MORE ZERO BEAT!

unless you've paid your dues

### Should we change the 13 WPM CW to 10 WPM

The biggest news out of Dayton involves a plan being hatched by Amateur Radio equipment manufacturers and magazine publishers. They want easier licensing requirements for access to HF spectrum. Amateur Radio Industry group members say the 13 word per minute Morse Code requirement for HF access should be lowered to 10 words per minute and they plan to work towards that goal.

At their April 28th meeting, group members discussed the plan, including petitioning the Federal Communications Commission. Giving advice to the group is former FCC official Ray Kowalski. He tells group members the timing for such a move is excellent, since Washington's political climate is so heavily geared toward emerging technologies.

"What's good for Amateur Radio is good for America. This is where the technicians and the bright young minds get their start. This is the fertile ground where they are planted. And if we don't nurture that and keep it growing & going, comes the next time we need engineers maybe we will rent them from Taiwan or some place, we will not have them home grown." Ray Kowalski, former FCC official.

The hottest selling ham gear lately has been VHF & UHF equipment. That reflects the strong growth in codeless technician class hams. *But equipment manufacturers are frustrated by marginal profits from sales of big ticket HF items.*

Some manufacturers say current code requirements act as a barrier to hams who would otherwise populate the HF bands. Ray Kowalski, currently a Washington lawyer dealing in communications issues, tells group members they should act on their wishes before the year is out.

"There is a window of opportunity that is now open. In Washington, when a new administration comes in, it takes them a year to get their act together, and by the fourth year they are hunkering down for the election. They don't want to do anything that will make anybody mad. So there is that two year window of opportunity in any administration where everything gets done. We are in that window now. So this is a great time to be thinking about what changes are necessary and natural for this service, this hobby, whatever you want to call it." Ray Kowalski, former FCC official.

One of those attending the amateur group meeting is Yaesu USA's Kevin Karamanos, WD6DIH. "I think in the long term the industry is going to try to get together and promote the technician to move up to general class and hopefully populate the HF bands. We need to do whatever we can to get more folks up there and move up." Kevin Karamanos, WD6DIH, Yaesu USA.

Are the radio makers trying to control our hobby?

From the May 1994, "Spark Gap" published by the Midstate ARC, editor unknown

From the CEDAR MOUNTAIN RAGCHEW

### MORSE CODE --

#### THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

In February of 1991 an American woman and two Japanese boys came into our Amateur Radio station at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, Florida.

The woman was the boy's tour guide. She said to me and Lee Paulet, KB4FBX "You won't be able to talk to these boys, They don't speak English at all." Then she said that the Japanese boy in the corner was a ham. That was the door opener.

Lee whistled CQ CQ CQ. That got the boy's attention, and the youngster was soon whistling back. Lee told the woman what the boy was saying. I don't remember the boy's name but he was 13 years old and was from a town 40 miles north of Tokyo. He had been in the U.S.A. for two weeks.

### Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be held on July 7th at the Alliance Community Hospital. We will be meeting at 7:30 PM, in room A, which is just off the Cafeteria. Our August meeting will be on August 4th, at 7:30 PM in room A.

Of course, visitors are always welcome.

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club  
P. O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

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The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Thursday of every month, at The Alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings are held in room A, and begin promptly at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

## Editorial

By NV9K

(This editorial appeared in the May 1994, "Spark Gap" published by the Midstate ARC, editor unknown. I hope you enjoy it. John, WX8G)

Every now and then there is a development in Amateur Radio that requires some real consideration by the members of our hobby! The other column (on page 1) suggests that we should lower the code requirements from 13 to 10 WPM CW for the General class license. It is also obvious that the reason for the suggestion is to increase the sales of HF equipment!

Now doesn't this sound familiar? Lower the requirements to sell more radios? Surely the Federal Government will love this! The same government that on the one hand berates the educational systems for not producing better graduates, but who on the other hand passes laws and quota systems that lower the standards of admission to our colleges!

Can you think of any situation where the product was improved by lowering the quality (standards)? Probably not, but our manufacturers think otherwise.

We made the entry level easier with the no-code Tech license which was a means of getting more hams licensed. These new techs can see the advantages of upgrading to acquire HF privileges. Many have passed the 13 WPM code to graze in these greener pastures! Other techs are preparing to do so soon. So why change?

I have no quarrel with making changes that will improve our hobby. But changes should be made for the *right reason*, not for selling more radios! (NV9K)

P.S. from WX8G

With Field Day fast approaching, I didn't get the call signs from the FCC. They will return in the September issue.

Remember, there won't be a Zero Beat next month. The Field Day wrap-up, and the Mall Show plans will be in the September issue. Hope you have a great summer!

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## Credits

Thanks to the contributors to this month's Zero Beat

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## Alliance

## Newcomers learn too

by Hans Brakob KOHB

The old grouch sez...

Talked to a young fella on the repeater the other day who introduced himself by saying, "My personal is Jim and your my first contact".

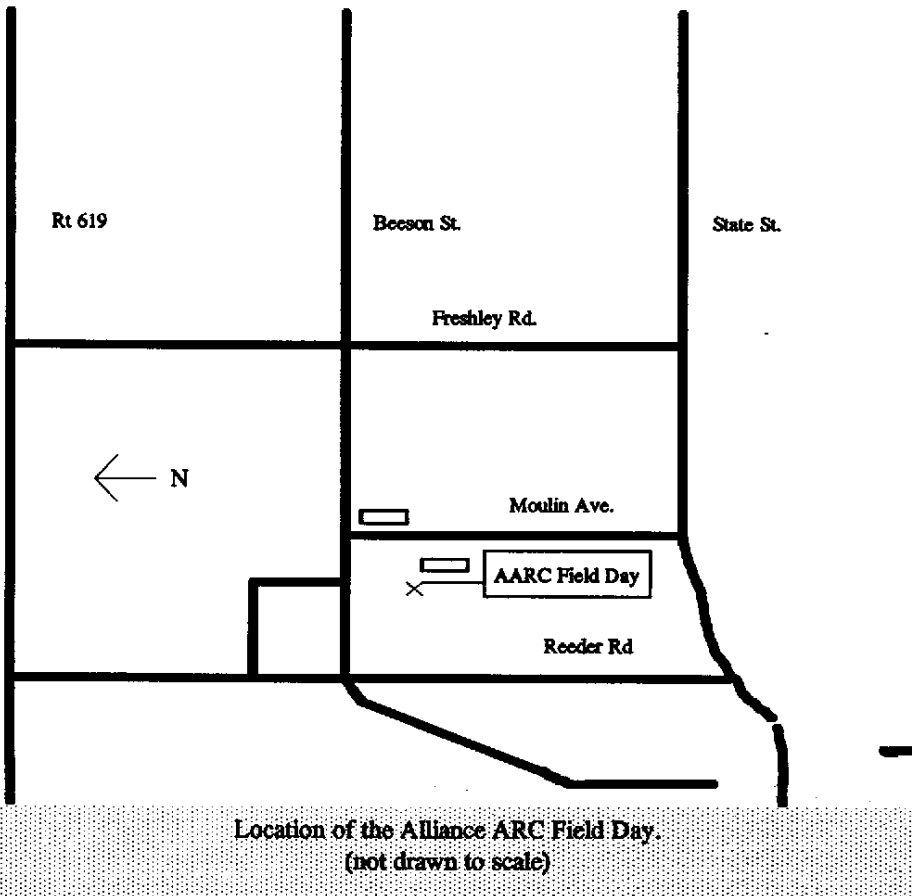
Seemed like a nice sort, delighted that he had just received his shiny new callsign and anxious to make some new friends. Kinda sounded like I felt when I put my new callsign on the air the first time way back when, except probably brighter, 'cuz Jim is one of those young computer jocks. (Me, I still got problems with the LL scale on my Pickett slide rule.)

Yep, I think Jim sounded brighter than me, quick to catch on to things. But I don't think Jim will be back on the repeater. Before I had a chance to get to know much about Jim, or even wrangle an invite to lunch, another station, with an impressive "senior" callsign joined the contact, flashed his shiny Radio Cop badge, and proceeded to issue Jim a "verbal speeding ticket" for improper lingo on the radio. "Radio Cop" said the term "personal" (and for that matter, "Handle") were unwelcome in Ham Radio, and generally made my newfound friend feel like an unwashed interloper. (Gosh, I've been saying "Handle" since I was a Conditional. Slow to catch on, you know.)

Now I should point out that "Radio Cop" took pains to appear very well meaning. Didn't use any bad words that I noticed, was quite polite, even seemed like he was trying to be "helpful". In other words, he thought he was doing Jim a favor by pointing out his transgression from our sacred Amateur Radio way of doing things.

I think Jim felt just the same way I did back in a new school in third grade when the well meaning teacher pointed out that "We don't keep our pencil behind our ear in this room". Sure enough, I looked around and none of my new classmates had pencils behind their ears. Sure was embarrassing, and at that moment I really wished I was back with my good old buddies in second grade.

Now if I'd been allowed to hang



## Field Day fever

Part II

Field Day is coming up real soon, and we have an exciting weekend planned. The fun starts June 25th with setup beginning about 9 AM. The Field Day site is again located behind Marlinton Middle school (see map). Operation will begin at 2 PM, and continue for the next 24 hours.

This year we will be hanging some wire antennas from an advertising balloon, which is being provided by Dick Hanson K8BTQ. Dick is owner of Air Advertising Unlimited, and is a new member of the AARC. He may be bringing an extra surprise, but you'll have to come to Field Day to find out what it is.

This years Field Day crew will be, if nothing else, well fed. For dinner, a sumptuous feast is planned. Bill Moretta

N8TLY, has tentatively offered to bring some food from his restaurant, Padulah's, in Massillon. For breakfast, Chef David Hostetler N8NLZ, will be whipping up a fabulous spread.

Plenty of help will be needed in setting up and tearing down the site, not to mention operating, logging, and the other 1001 chores that always seem to crop up. Licensed or not, you're welcome. So come on out and enjoy yourself. That's what Field Day is all about.

The tour guide said, "You can't be communicating with him!" Lee's answer was "Oh yes, we hams can. Morse code is a universal language!" Clark J. Evens Sr. WA4DLL, Tampa, Florida, Nov. 1992 QST.

# July 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 7:30 PM AARC Meeting	8	9
10	11 N8IAK Birthday	12	13	14 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	15	16 2:00 PM AARC Fox hunt Noarsfest 94
17	18	19	20	21 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net KE8II Birthday	22	23 Silvercreek VE Exams
24 K5TQN Birthday	25	26	27	28 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	29	30 Silvercreek VE Exams
31 Ashtabula County Hamfest & Computer Show						

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	4	7	8	11	12	14
15	18	19	22	23	26	28

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

# August 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 7:30 PM AARC Meeting N8VPA Birthday	5 N8IGZ Birthday	6
7 Portage Hamfair	8	9	10	11 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	12	13
14 Carnation Triathlon	15	16	17	18 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	19	20 N8NLZ Birthday QCWA Canton Chapter 21 Meetings
21 Warren Hamfest	22	23	24	25 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	26	27 Canton VE Exams
28	29	30	31			

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	4	5	8	9	12	14
15	18	19	22	23	26	28

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

# Where's DX ?

By Jack Bennett, W8WEN



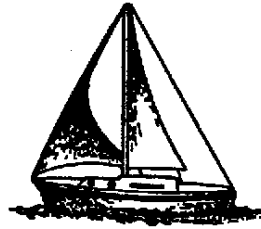
Looks like Jack's computer problems are solved, and he's been working them left & right. Here's the latest excerpts from his Log

## North America

5/28 KL7Y 14.002 0501  
5/28 6E2T 14.036 0541  
5/28 KG4DX 21.021 0021  
5/28 XL3EJ 1.8 0446  
5/29 HT1T 21.017 0041  
5/29 KP4VA 14.016 0155  
5/29 NP2T 14.031 0228  
5/29 TEST 14.021 0232

## South America

5/19 PY2XAX 21.027 2330



5/29 ZX0F 14.026 0107

5/29 3G1X 14.013 0236

## Europe

5/20 Z32XA 21.027 1621

## Africa

5/19 6W1/F5PHW 14.003 0042

5/21 3B8FG 14.016 0324

## Asia

5/19 K4VEW/UA0A 14.028 1407

## Oceania

5/27 A35RK 14.024 0337

5/28 VK2VM 14.019 0515

## Q & A

This is the second installment for Q & A. If you'd like to see your question answered, just write it down and give it to the editor, or mail it to the club box.

This month's question has to do with Novice HF power levels.

**To the editor:** I'm worried. I'm limited to only 200 watts in the novice section of Ten meters, but then I heard our local net control station tell about using an amplifier on 28.400 MHz. What gives? Shouldn't I report him to someone? Signed, Powerless

**Dear powerless:** Don't worry, he's legal. According to the FCC rules & regs, only Novices, & Tech's are limited to 200 watts in the 10 meter band. Everyone else is allowed full legal power. What an incentive to upgrade, huh? By the way, this is the only HF band where this type of power limitation applies. In all other HF Novice bands, Higher class operators are limited to the same power level as a Novice or Technician class operator. This information is spelled out in the FCC Rule Book, which you should have in your shack.

## Short Stories

Continued from Page 4

Jerry was not club member, but when we wanted to make some code practice oscillators for Novice class, he was happy to make the boards for us at no charge.

● What were you doing on the fourth of June? Jim Ferguson N8DZA was competing in a RC aircraft fly-in, which was sponsored by the Metro RC Flyers, in Barberton, and took 1st place in the Sportsman class. Flying his radio controlled sailplane, Jim was able to find a thermal where none seemed to exist. Who says that hams don't have a good understanding of hot air?

● There is a hint of a rumor of a possible fox hunt to be held in July. The foxes for this hunt will be John Bray KF8ZG, and Bill Bennett W8ZZS. Just listen for news on the nets.

● Help! We need operators. The Carnation Triathlon will be held on August 14th, and we need operators who are willing to donate a few hours of their time for the benefit of their community. As a special bonus, the triathlon does not conflict with the Warren hamfest, which is on the 21st. We're not sure who the chairman for the communications end of this event will be, but keep an ear peeled to the Thursday night net frequency, for more information.

From the LAKE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

## COFFEE

Hams seem to drink a lot of coffee. They meet for coffee, they set a cup on their rigs, they spill a cup on their keyboards, they excuse themselves from QSO's to go fill their cups and so forth. With that in mind I thought you might enjoy this.

HAPPINESS.....is a good cup of coffee  
SECURITY.....is having your own coffee cup  
ANXIETY.....is wondering who's been using it  
DESPAIR.....is knowing

out a couple of days, I'm sure I would have learned how to properly stow my pencil. And if Jim would have hung around a couple of days on our repeater, I just bet he would have noticed that his lingo, perhaps learned in another radio service, was a bit out of place, and pretty soon Jim would sound "just like the rest of us".

Like I said, he seemed pretty bright to me, quick to catch on to things. "Radio Cop", you have kept our hobby uncorrupted. I heard Jim down around 27 MC this morning trying to sell his barely used 2-meter HT. I'm gonna miss my new friend Jim, because I think I could have learned something from him. Maybe you could have also. Like I said, he seemed pretty bright to me, quick to catch onto things. Gee, what do you think Jim caught on to? 73 de Hans, KOHB

From the Massillon ARC's "Feedback" June 1994 edition. Gary Kline WC8W editor

## Test Frame #1

# 5 Years Ago

From the July 1989 Zero Beat  
Dennis & Janice Barber  
KB8GCE & KB8GCF editors

# Short Circuits

- If you've been putting off the payment of your dues, this is your final issue of the Zero Beat. Contact Matt Thomas N8EAD, to keep your newsletter coming.
- No Zero Beat? That's right. Since the publishing staff will be out of town, the editor has decided to take a month off, to enjoy the summer. But don't worry, The Zero Beat will be back in late August.
- Don't forget that even though it is summer, we are still running the Tri County News & Information Net on Thursday nights. The only exception is 1st Thursday of the month, which is club meeting night. The net begins at 8:30 PM, on 28.400 Mhz, with Don, K8OMO officiating. At 9:00 the action moves to 145.370, where Jim, N8DZA runs the 2 meter version. The net is your best source of up to the minute information about club activities (after the Zero Beat, of course!)
- Ham Radio lost another member this week. Jerry Kirkendall KA8YEB, founder of Electronic Circuits & Design, and owner of K & K Electronics, passed away on June 10.



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- Dennis Barber KB8GCF gave his observations of his first Field Day. Having been licensed for less than a year, it was interesting to read about it from a new hams perspective.
- Not sure how to test that transistor? No problem! We had an article on the testing of diodes and bipolar transistors.
- Paul Beane, NW was recognized in the Alliance Review for driving one million miles without a preventable accident.
- We had a wrap up of the aerobic competition at Great lakes aeroport. Members of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club helped with communications for this event.
- For sale: Commodore 64 with two 1541 disk drives, Digicom for packet, Color Monitor and 1801 printer. If interested call N8PLM at 938 0023.



Dave Glass W8UKQ  
217 W. Simpson St.  
Alliance, OH 44601

# Pres Says

By Pam Myers N8IAK

It's hard to believe that Field Day is here already! I'm definitely looking forward to having some fun on the air this year. Hope you can join us even if it's just for a little while.

There will be no program for the July meeting. We will however, probably be talking about how the phone stations beat the CW stations at Field Day, so you won't want to miss the meeting. Maybe John even got the date right this time on the front page. HI.

Speaking of Field Day, special thanks goes to Bill N8TLY for the donation of the food, Dave N8NLZ for the cooking of breakfast, and Jim N8DZA & Don K8OMO for the fine job of putting this thing together. Remember to support YOUR club!

A ham who hasn't been able to attend the meetings, due to working the late shift recently paid his dues and also gave a donation to the club. Thanks Dick KA8LKQ.

Now, I'm not begging for money here; there are many ways to support the club, by volunteering for committees, volunteering for an officer's position and just being at the meetings with your input. That's all for now see you at Field Day and don't forget to pay your dues if you haven't already,!!!!!!!

